

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~In an electronic device in communication with a network, a method~~ A method for authenticating and authorizing a user of an electronic device in communication with a network, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

receiving a user request from a user of an electronic device in communication with a network;

~~determining an identity of said user, wherein said step of determining further comprises the steps of:~~

searching for information relating to said user in a repository of user information, said searching based at least partially on said user request and a login identity supplied by said user;

retrieving, from the repository of user information, a unique universal user identifier representing said user upon locating said information of said user;

storing at least said unique universal user identifier in a data packet;

sending said data packet to a storage device such that said data packet is transmittable to electronic devices in communication with said network when said user attempts to access a resource within said network; and

retrieving an authorization datum associated with said user, based at least partially on said unique universal user identifier, from said resource.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said receiving a user request comprises receiving a login name from said user~~ step comprises said user providing a login name to said network.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein prior to said searching step, said method further comprising the steps of:~~

registering said user with said network;

generating said unique universal user identifier relating to said user;

inserting said unique universal user identifier in said repository of user information;

and

populating a plurality of repositories containing authorization data with said user identifier.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a security identity from said user ~~the step of said user providing a security identity.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a digital certificate from said user ~~the step of said user providing a digital certificate.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein said determining step further comprises~~ further comprising indicating a result to said user regarding permitted access to said network.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein said determining step further comprises~~ further comprising requesting a user credential of said user.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said sending step further comprises~~ sending said data packet to a storage device comprises sending said data packet to a user electronic device supporting said storage device.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ storing information in addition to said unique universal user identifier in said data packet.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said sending step~~ sending said data packet to a storage device comprises transmitting a cookie to said user electronic device enabling an identity of said user to be automatically recognized when said cookie is transmitted to said resource within said network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ encrypting said data packet.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~In an electronic device in communication with a network, a method for a user to access~~ A method for accessing a plurality of resources having different authorization requirements, ~~the method~~ comprising:

~~said network storing a plurality of unique universal user identifiers with said plurality of resources;~~

~~said user accessing said network via a user electronic device~~ accessing, via an electronic device, a network comprising a plurality of resources;

~~said user~~ providing identifying data to said network;

~~said network~~ retrieving, in response to the identifying data, a unique universal user identifier for corresponding to said user in a from a repository of unique universal user identifiers;

~~said network~~ storing said unique universal user identifier on a storage device, said unique universal user identifier indicating said user is authenticated; and

~~said user~~ accessing one of said plurality of resources, wherein said unique universal user identifier is transmitted to said one of said plurality of resources to identify said user such that said user can access authorized resources without providing additional identifying information and said user is denied access to unauthorized resources.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising ~~said unique universal user identifier~~ providing a key to retrieve an authorization datum associated with one of said plurality of unique universal user identifiers matching said unique universal user identifier from one of said plurality of resources.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, ~~wherein prior to said step of storing said plurality of unique universal user identifiers, said method~~ further comprising the steps of:

~~said user~~ registering said user with said network;

~~said network~~ generating said unique universal user identifier for said user; and

~~said network~~ inserting said unique universal user identifier in at least one of said plurality of unique universal user identifiers.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~said proving step comprises said user~~ providing identifying data to said network comprises supplying at least one of a login name, a password, and a digital certificate.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, ~~wherein prior to said storing said unique user identifier step, said method further comprising said user~~ wherein providing identifying data to said network comprises providing user credentials.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, ~~claim 16, wherein prior to said storing said unique universal user identifier step, said method further comprising said user~~ wherein providing identifying data to said network comprises providing a digital certificate.

18. (Currently Amended) A method ~~implemented by at least one electronic device for user authentication and authorization using a unique universal user identifier to retrieve user data, the method comprising the steps of, comprising:~~

accessing a repository containing a plurality of unique universal user ~~identifiers;~~  
identifiers, each of said unique universal user identifiers being unique to a user;

retrieving one of said unique universal user identifiers ~~identifier~~ from said repository,  
~~said unique universal user identifier being unique to a user;~~

storing said unique universal user identifier in a data packet readable by an electronic device;

transmitting said data packet to a storage device coupled to said electronic device; and

making said data packet available to a resource configured within an enterprise network to authorize said user.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein storing said unique universal user identifier ~~said step of storing~~ comprises packaging said unique universal user identifier in a cookie suitable for storage on at least one of a user electronic device and a user proxy electronic device.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising ~~the step of~~ employing a software program ~~employed~~ to access a network reading said storage device.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising ~~the step of~~ employing a web browser ~~employed~~ to access a network reading said storage device.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:  
delivering said data packet to said resource configured within said enterprise network;  
extracting said unique universal user identifier from said data packet;  
accessing a repository containing a plurality of user entitlement data; and  
retrieving a user-specific entitlement from said repository containing said plurality of user entitlement data using said unique universal user identifier to locate said user-specific entitlement.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for user authentication and authorization, ~~A network of electronic devices suitable for implementing a method for authentication and authorization using a unique universal user identifier to retrieve user data, said network of electronic devices comprising:~~

a repository containing a plurality of unique universal user identifiers, each unique universal user identifier being unique to a user ~~and said repository being in communication with said network;~~

a first software tool ~~suitable for receiving~~ operable to receive user login information, ~~accessing~~ access said repository, ~~locating~~ retrieve a unique universal user identifier relating to said user, and ~~transmitting any such~~ transmit said unique universal user identifier to an electronic storage device suitable for storing said unique universal user identifier in a data packet for transmission to resources within a network ~~said network;~~ and

~~a user electronic device suitable for communication with said network; and~~

a second software tool suitable for receiving said data packet and locating authorization datum of said user.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~network of electronic devices according to~~ claim 23, wherein said electronic storage device is readable by a software program suitable for accessing said network.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of network of electronic devices according to claim 24, wherein said software program is a web browser.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of network of electronic devices according to claim 23, wherein said electronic storage device is a resource configured within said network.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of network of electronic devices according to claim 23, further comprising a repository containing authorization data, said repository containing authorization data accessible using said unique universal user identifier as a key to retrieve a user-specific entitlement associated with said user.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with logic operable, when executed on a computer processor, to perform the steps comprising computer readable medium containing a software program for executing a method for authenticating and authorizing a user, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a user request from a user of an electronic device;

~~determining an identity of said user, wherein said step of determining further comprises the steps of:~~

searching for ~~information of said user~~ a user credential corresponding to said user in an authentication database;

locating said user credential ~~in reference to said user~~ in said authentication database;

retrieving a unique universal user identifier representing said user upon locating said user credential ~~in reference to said user~~;

packaging ~~at least~~ said unique universal user identifier in a data packet; and

transmitting said data packet to ~~a user~~ said electronic device such that said data packet is transmittable to electronic devices in communication with a network when said user attempts to access a resource within said network such that said user can access authorized resources without providing additional identifying information.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable~~ computer-readable medium of claim 28, ~~wherein the method executed by the software program further comprises the steps of further operable, when executed on a computer processor, to perform the steps comprising:~~

transmitting said data packet to said resource within said network;

accessing a repository containing a plurality of unique universal user identifiers using said packaged unique universal user identifier in a search operation; and

retrieving a user-specific entitlement from said repository containing a plurality of unique universal user identifiers, said user-specific entitlement associated with said packaged unique universal identifier.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable~~ computer-readable medium of claim 28, ~~wherein the method executed by the software program further comprises the step of further operable, when executed on a computer processor, to perform the step of requesting a user credential.~~